

CHAPTER 180
LICENSURE OF OPTOMETRISTS

[Prior to 6/13/01, see 645—Chapter 180]

645—180.1(154) Definitions. For purposes of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Active license*” means a license that is current and has not expired.

“*Approved program or activity*” means a continuing education program or activity meeting the standards set forth in these rules.

“*Board*” means the board of optometry examiners.

“*CELMO*” means the Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists.

“*Diagnostically certified optometrist*” means an optometrist who is licensed to practice optometry in Iowa and who is certified by the board of optometry examiners to use cycloplegics, mydriatics and topical anesthetics as diagnostic agents topically applied to determine the condition of the human eye for proper optometric practice or referral for treatment to a person licensed under Iowa Code chapter 148 or 150A.

“*DPA*” means diagnostic pharmaceutical agents.

“*Grace period*” means the 30-day period following expiration of a license when the license is still considered to be active. In order to renew a license during the grace period, a licensee is required to pay a late fee.

“*Inactive license*” means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period. The category of “inactive license” may include licenses formerly known as lapsed, inactive, delinquent, closed, or retired.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as an optometrist in the state of Iowa.

“*Licensure by endorsement*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice optometry to an applicant who is or has been licensed in another state.

“*Mandatory training*” means training on identifying and reporting child abuse or dependent adult abuse required of optometrists who are mandatory reporters. The full requirements on mandatory reporting of child abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 232.69. The full requirements on mandatory reporting of dependent adult abuse and the training requirements are found in Iowa Code section 235B.16.

“*NBEO*” means the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

“*Reactivate*” or “*reactivation*” means the process as outlined in rule 180.11(17A,147,272C) by which an inactive license is restored to active status.

“*Reciprocal license*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice optometry to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state which has a mutual agreement with the Iowa board of optometry examiners to license persons who have the same or similar qualifications to those required in Iowa.

“*Reinstatement*” means the process as outlined in 645—11.31(272C) by which a licensee who has had a license suspended or revoked or who has voluntarily surrendered a license may apply to have the license reinstated, with or without conditions. Once the license is reinstated, the licensee may apply for active status.

“*Therapeutically certified optometrist*” means an optometrist who is licensed to practice optometry in Iowa and who is certified by the board of optometry examiners to use diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment of the conditions of the human eye and adnexa, with the exclusions cited in Iowa Code chapter 154.

“*TPA*” means therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

645—180.2(154) Requirements for licensure.

180.2(1) The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

a. An applicant shall complete a board-approved application form. Application forms may be obtained from the board's Web site (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>) or directly from the Board of Optometry Examiners, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

b. An applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application. If the application is not completed according to the instructions, the application will not be reviewed by the board.

c. An applicant shall submit the appropriate fees payable to the Board of Optometry Examiners. The fees are nonrefundable.

d. No application will be considered complete until official copies of academic transcripts sent directly to the board from an accredited school or college of optometry are received by the board and the applicant submits proof of satisfactory completion of all educational requirements contained in Iowa Code chapter 154.

e. An applicant shall pass all parts of the NBEO examination in effect at the time of application.

f. Licensees who were issued their licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

g. Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years shall be:

(1) Considered invalid and shall be destroyed; or

(2) Maintained upon written request of the candidate. The candidate is responsible for requesting that the file be maintained.

h. An applicant shall provide an official verification regarding the status of the applicant's license from the board of examiners in each state in which the applicant is currently or was formerly licensed.

180.2(2) A licensee may change from a diagnostically certified optometrist to a therapeutically certified optometrist by taking 40 hours of didactic education and 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa and an additional 44 hours of education with emphasis on treatment and management of glaucoma and use of oral pharmaceutical agents for treatment and management of ocular diseases as defined by statute.

645—180.3(154) Licensure by endorsement. An applicant who has been a licensed optometrist under laws of another jurisdiction for three years or more shall file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office. An applicant for licensure to practice optometry in Iowa may only apply to be a therapeutically certified optometrist. The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia or another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

180.3(1) Submits to the board a completed application;

180.3(2) Pays the licensure fee;

180.3(3) Provides an official copy of the transcript sent directly from the school to the board office. The transcript shall show a doctor of optometry degree from an accredited school. In the case of foreign graduates, applicants shall provide evidence of adherence to the current requirements of the NBEO to sit for the examination;

180.3(4) Shows evidence of successful completion of the examination of the NBEO that was current at the time of initial licensure or successful completion of the examination that is currently offered by the NBEO;

180.3(5) Provides verification of license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant has been licensed, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification direct from the jurisdiction's board office if the verification provides:

- a. Licensee's name;
- b. Date of initial licensure;
- c. Current licensure status; and
- d. Any disciplinary action taken against the license;

180.3(6) Provides a statement disclosing and explaining the applicant's involvement in civil litigation related to the practice of optometry in any jurisdiction of the United States, other nations or territories; and

180.3(7) Provides proof of current CELMO certification. Applicants who provide proof of current CELMO certification satisfy the educational requirements for licensure by endorsement. If an applicant is not CELMO-certified, then the applicant must show evidence of the following:

a. The applicant shall supply evidence of completion of a course that has particular emphasis on the examination, diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa, provided by an institution accredited by a regional or professional accreditation organization that is recognized or approved by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation of the United States Department of Education; and

b. The applicant shall show evidence on the transcript of:

(1) Forty hours of didactic education and 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa; and

(2) An additional 44 hours of education with emphasis on treatment and management of glaucoma and use of oral pharmaceutical agents for treatment and management of ocular diseases.

c. If the transcript does not show evidence of 40 hours of didactic education; 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa; and 44 hours of education with emphasis on treatment and management of glaucoma and use of oral pharmaceutical agents for treatment and management of ocular diseases, the applicant shall show satisfactory evidence of completion of a course that includes training in the above-listed areas.

d. Any transcript that shows graduation from an approved school of optometry after January 2, 1988, meets the requirement of 180.3(7) "b."

e. Any transcript that shows graduation from an approved school of optometry after January 2, 1986, meets the requirement of 180.3(7) "b"(1) of 40 hours of didactic education and 60 hours of approved supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa. Applicants need to also show evidence of completion of the requirement in 180.3(7) "b"(2).

f. An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall provide proof of licensure and evidence of three years of active practice in another state, territory or district of the United States immediately preceding the date of application which has a similar scope of practice to that required in Iowa as determined by the board. When the scope of practice is different, the applicant shall make available to the board evidence of completion of additional hours of training related to the area of the deficiency as prescribed by the board. The applicant may be exempt from the requirement of three years of active practice if, during the above-mentioned three-year period, the applicant was:

- (1) Teaching optometry;
- (2) A military optometrist;
- (3) A supervisory or administrative optometrist; or
- (4) A researcher in optometry.

180.3(8) Applicants for licensure by endorsement who were issued their Iowa licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

645—180.4(147) Licensure by reciprocal agreement. The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with the District of Columbia, any state, territory, province or foreign country with equal or similar requirements for licensure of optometrists.

645—180.5(154) License renewal.

180.5(1) The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice optometry shall begin on July 1 of an even-numbered year and end on June 30 two years later. The board shall send a renewal notice by regular mail to each licensee at the address on record at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. The licensee is responsible for renewing the license prior to its expiration. Failure of the licensee to receive the notice does not relieve the licensee of the responsibility for renewing the license.

180.5(2) An individual who was issued a license within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew the license until the subsequent renewal two years later.

180.5(3) A licensee seeking renewal shall:

a. Meet the continuing education requirements of rule 645—181.2(154) and the mandatory reporting requirements of subrule 180.5(4). A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance period may use continuing education credit earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation; and

b. Submit the completed renewal application and renewal fee before the license expiration date.

180.5(4) Mandatory reporter training requirements.

a. A licensee who, in the scope of professional practice or in the licensee's employment responsibilities, examines, attends, counsels or treats children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph "e."

b. A licensee who, in the course of employment, examines, attends, counsels or treats adults in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in dependent adult abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph "e."

c. A licensee who, in the scope of professional practice or in the course of the licensee's employment responsibilities, examines, attends, counsels or treats both adults and children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of training in abuse identification and reporting for dependent adults and children in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph "e."

Training may be completed through separate courses as identified in paragraphs "a" and "b" or in one combined two-hour course that includes curricula for identifying and reporting child abuse and dependent adult abuse. The course shall be a curriculum approved by the Iowa department of public health abuse education review panel.

d. The licensee shall maintain written documentation for five years after mandatory training as identified in paragraphs "a" to "c," including program date(s), content, duration, and proof of participation.

e. The requirement for mandatory training for identifying and reporting child and dependent adult abuse shall be suspended if the board determines that suspension is in the public interest or that a person at the time of license renewal:

(1) Is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or the United States.

(2) Holds a current waiver by the board based on evidence of significant hardship in complying with training requirements, including an exemption of continuing education requirements or extension of time in which to fulfill requirements due to a physical or mental disability or illness as identified in 645—Chapter 181.

f. The board may select licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements in paragraphs "a" to "e."

180.5(5) Upon receiving the information required by this rule and the required fee, board staff shall administratively issue a two-year license and shall send the licensee a wallet card by regular mail. In the event the board receives adverse information on the renewal application, the board shall issue the renewal license but may refer the adverse information for further consideration or disciplinary investigation.

180.5(6) A person licensed to practice optometry shall keep the license certificate and wallet card(s) displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

180.5(7) Late renewal. The license shall become late when the license has not been renewed by the expiration date on the wallet card. The licensee shall be assessed a late fee as specified in 645—subrule 184.1(3). To renew a late license, the licensee shall complete the renewal requirements and submit the late fee within the grace period.

180.5(8) Inactive license. A licensee who fails to renew the license by the end of the grace period has an inactive license. A licensee whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa, but may not practice as an optometrist in Iowa until the license is reactivated. A licensee who practices as an optometrist in the state of Iowa with an inactive license may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, and other available legal remedies.

645—180.6(272C) Exemptions for inactive practitioners. Rescinded IAB 8/3/05, effective 9/7/05.

645—180.7(272C) Lapsed licenses. Rescinded IAB 8/3/05, effective 9/7/05.

645—180.8(147) Duplicate certificate or wallet card.

180.8(1) A duplicate wallet card or duplicate certificate shall be required if the current wallet card or certificate is lost, stolen or destroyed. A duplicate wallet card or a duplicate certificate shall be issued only under such circumstances.

180.8(2) A duplicate wallet card or duplicate certificate shall be issued upon receipt of the completed application for duplicate license and payment of the fee as specified in rule 645—184.1(147,154).

180.8(3) If the board receives a completed application for duplicate license stating that the wallet card or certificate was not received within 60 days after being mailed by the board, no fee shall be required for issuing the duplicate wallet card or duplicate certificate.

645—180.9(147) Reissued certificate or wallet card. The board shall reissue a certificate or current wallet card upon receipt of a written request from the licensee, return of the original document and payment of the fee as specified in rule 645—184.1(147,154).

645—180.10(17A,147,272C) License denial.

180.10(1) When the board denies an applicant licensure, the board shall notify the applicant of the denial in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in the manner of service of an original notice, and shall cite the reasons for which the application was denied.

180.10(2) An applicant who has been denied licensure by the board may appeal the denial and request a hearing on the issues related to the licensure denial by serving a written notice of appeal and request for hearing upon the board by certified mail, return receipt requested, not more than 30 days following the date of mailing of the notification of licensure denial to the applicant. The request for hearing shall specifically describe the facts to be contested and determined at the hearing.

180.10(3) If an applicant who has been denied licensure by the board appeals the licensure denial and requests a hearing pursuant to this rule, the hearing and subsequent procedures shall be held pursuant to the process outlined in Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272C and 645—Chapter 11.

645—180.11(17A,147,272C) License reactivation. To apply for reactivation of an inactive license, a licensee shall:

180.11(1) Submit a reactivation application on a form provided by the board.

180.11(2) Pay the reactivation fee that is due as specified in 645—Chapter 184.

180.11(3) Provide verification of current competence to practice as an optometrist by satisfying one of the following criteria:

a. If the license has been on inactive status for five years or less, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 30 hours of continuing education for a diagnostically certified optometrist or 50 hours for a therapeutically certified optometrist within two years of application for reactivation unless the applicant provides proof of current CELMO certification. Proof of current CELMO certification satisfies continuing education requirements for the purpose of reactivation.

b. If the license has been on inactive status for more than five years, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 60 hours of continuing education for a diagnostically certified optometrist or 100 hours for a therapeutically certified optometrist within two years of application for reactivation unless the applicant provides proof of current CELMO certification. If the therapeutically certified optometrist provides proof of current CELMO certification, the applicant must also verify completion of an additional 50 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation.

645—180.12(17A,147,272C) License reinstatement. A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended, or voluntarily surrendered must apply for and receive reinstatement of the license in accordance with 645—11.31(272C) and must apply for and be granted reactivation of the license in accordance with 180.11(17A,147,272C) prior to practicing as an optometrist in this state.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 154 and 272C.

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